

increase in women-owned firms has been in industries like transportation, communications, construction, and mining. Women are making significant contributions to the economy in Colorado and across the country. I am pleased to recognize not only the advancements made by women in business, but also the vital role they play as employers and investors in today's economy.

Despite challenges and initial setbacks, women-owned businesses are at the forefront of many new and innovative ideas.

#### WE MUST WIN THE WAR AGAINST DRUGS

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, heroin has claimed another young life in my hometown of Plano, Texas. A total of 13 young people have died from heroin there within the past year.

The local police are doing their very best to stop drugs in our schools, but they are being stretched beyond their limits. They need our help now.

I have been working with members of the North Texas delegation to have the Dallas-Fort Worth area designated as a HIDTA, a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, but this administration has been dragging its feet. This is a real war, and we need the resources and armor of our Federal law enforcement agencies to stop drug flow now. I urge General McCaffrey to approve the HIDTA designation as soon as possible.

Speaker GINGRICH said just yesterday our first goal ought to be to win the war against drugs. We must win this war. The survival of our children depends on it.

#### INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

(Ms. NORTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I choose today, International Women's Day, to call to the attention of this body that women business owners are proving to be a major factor in the most robust economy since World War II. Women business owners are showing remarkable staying power. Three-quarters of the women businesses that were in existence in 1991 are still in existence, compared to the overall American average of two-thirds of all firms.

What does this signify? What does it tell us about women? What we have already known: that the stability and hard work for which women have been known in the home, they are bringing now not only to the workplace but to owning businesses themselves.

The bipartisan Women's Caucus has put special emphasis on women-owned business. I salute the bipartisan team

leaders in our caucus, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. KELLY) for their leadership on women-owned business issues. They have introduced House Resolution 313, which I invite all Members to sign on. The Federal Government has a goal of 5 percent women-owned businesses. We are only at 2 percent.

#### TIME FOR TAX REFORM

(Mr. JONES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, today the average American will work 2 hours and 49 minutes of an 8-hour work day just to pay his or her taxes. Many of them will go home not to spend quality time with their families, but to tackle a complicated maze of IRS rules and forms simply so they can figure out how much of their hard-earned money they will send to Washington this year.

Mr. Speaker, this is not what America should be about. The tax burden of this country is far too high, both in the size of the checks that taxpayers must write to the IRS each year and in the amount of time and money: 5 billion hours and \$225 billion annually they must spend complying with the lengthy and complicated Tax Code.

□ 1415

The American people want, need and deserve a fairer, simpler tax system. I hope my colleagues in this Congress will join a bipartisan effort to provide them with the very critical tax relief they deserve.

#### DUE PROCESS

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I try to watch the network news every day. I watch some of the political talk shows that cover the strange world of Washington, D.C. I keep waiting to see some discussion of 18 U.S. Code, section 1503.

Most people are not lawyers, but there are a lot of lawyers out there, including a lot of journalists, who know perfectly well what 18 U.S. Code, section 1503 means. It is a criminal statute that absolutely prohibits government employees from interfering in a Federal investigation. Government employees may not attempt to influence, obstruct or impede a Federal investigator.

This is not a controversial law. It is obvious that one may not impede or interfere in any way with a Federal investigation. Mafia dons may try it, but a person conducting a smear campaign to intimidate or discredit judicial officials is in violation of the law. It is not even a debatable issue.

Due process must proceed without interference immediately, period.

#### SURPLUS? WHAT SURPLUS? WATCH THE DEBT MOUNT

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, for the first time since 1969, 29 years ago, the Federal Government is supposed to balance its budget and have a surplus. But will we really? Here is a lesson in government accounting.

In 1998, the Congressional Budget Office, CBO, projects there will be a surplus of \$8 billion, and the national debt will be \$5.5 trillion. Remember, the national debt is the total from accumulated deficits and interest payments.

In 2002, after 5 years of balanced budgets, CBO projects the surplus will be \$67 billion, and the national debt will be \$6.4 trillion. Let me repeat, the national debt in 1998 will be \$5.5 trillion; after years of surpluses, the national debt in 2002 will be \$6.4 trillion.

What is wrong with this picture? How can the government say the Federal budget will be in surplus at the same time that the national debt will increase by nearly \$1 trillion? It is easy, if we do not count billions spent every year from government trust funds like Social Security.

Clearly there is no surplus. If the debt continues to go up, the budget is really not balanced, now is it?

#### JUDGE KENNETH STARR

(Mr. WELDON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, what is happening right now to Judge Kenneth Starr is absolutely disgraceful. The amazing thing about it is that the smear campaign directed at Judge Starr is happening right before our eyes. Attorney General Janet Reno, the Attorney General of the United States, not some right-wing partisan, appointed Judge Starr to investigate the allegations of perjury and obstruction of justice.

Judge Starr was appointed by Attorney General Janet Reno because he had a track record of distinguished and honorable service and because he had a record of integrity, honesty and fairness. If Judge Starr has acted improperly in any manner, Attorney General Janet Reno should remove him immediately as Independent Counsel. If Judge Starr has shown himself to be conducting his investigation in an unfair, partisan manner, the Attorney General must act immediately to replace him. But if Judge Starr has done nothing wrong or improper, Attorney General Janet Reno should make a statement demanding that friends of the White House stop interfering with his investigation and stop the campaign to destroy him.

All Federal prosecutors must be free of outside interference.

## RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4:20 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 4:20 p.m.

□ 1621

## AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS) at 4 o'clock and 21 minutes p.m.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER  
AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2495

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove myself as a cosponsor of H.R. 2495, the Higher Education for the 21st Century Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Connecticut?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER  
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5 of rule I, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 4 of rule XV.

Such rollcall votes, if postponed, will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules but not before 5 p.m. today.

PERMITTING USE OF ROTUNDA  
FOR CEREMONY IN COMMEMORATION  
OF DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE OF VICTIMS OF THE  
HOLOCAUST

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 206) permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 206

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring).* That the rotunda of the Capitol is authorized to be used from 8 o'clock ante meridian until 3 o'clock post meridian on April 23, 1998, for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust. Physical preparations for the ceremony shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as the Architect of the Capitol may prescribe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS).

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the concurrent resolution that we have before us is a renewal of what has become an annual and a moving event. House Concurrent Resolution 206 permits the use of the rotunda in the Capitol for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust. The two names most associated with requesting this event through the House of Representatives are the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. YATES) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN). The sum and substance of this concurrent resolution is to allow for the physical use of the Capitol rotunda to remember, quite appropriately at the seat of freedom, the victims of the Holocaust.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. Mr. Speaker, it is a small irony that I am here today as the ranking Democrat on this committee. Both my parents survived the Holocaust in Europe. My father's village was liquidated. Certainly after Pearl Harbor, my mother was lucky enough to flee her homeland and was saved in much of the war in Kazakhstan and other deep parts of Russia.

It is, for me, a particularly important statement to make to the world not simply to remember the cruelty that occurred, but also to recognize the incredible courage of those who survived, who shortly after these dark days, went out, formed families, moved their families. Many of them came to the United States to create new lives and meet new challenges.

But it would not be enough if we simply have this historic event just to remember, because we all need to learn a lesson where hatred and bigotry and prejudice existed. Hitler had many victims, not just the Jews; gays, gypsies and others were also victims of Hitler's torture, terror and death.

I would hope, as we continue this tradition, we also continue to remember that hatred is not dead among us today, and we need to continue that fight.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentleman from California for his efforts here today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the gentleman from Connecticut because what he has done is pointed out the fact that although a number of people believe this to have been a historical event with no real relevance to the present, the clear indication that there are people who are living who actually have this as a portion of their lives brings home how close it is to a number of Americans.

I want to underscore the fact that when we began this commemorative, it was before the opening of the Holocaust Museum, and that it tended to appear to be an annual event. One of the nicer aspects of the Holocaust Museum as one of the key places to visit in the Capital today is that it is an ongoing remembrance, because clearly we do not want to just commemorate what occurred; we want to remember to make sure that it does not happen again.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 206, sponsored by our distinguished colleague from Illinois, Mr. YATES, and wish to also commend the Chairman of the House Committee on House Oversight, Mr. THOMAS, for the expeditious consideration of this bill.

House Concurrent Resolution 206 will permit the use of our Congressional Rotunda for the annual ceremony to commemorate the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust.

The annual days of remembrance, sponsored by the Holocaust Memorial Council of which Mr. YATES and I are both congressional members, will be held on April 23, 1998.

This important commemorative program allows Congress and the Nation to observe the days of remembrance for victims of the Holocaust, to pay tribute to the American liberators of the concentration camp's survivors, and by commemorating this enormous tragedy, ensuring that it will never happen again anywhere in the world.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join in urging adoption of this resolution.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 206.

The question was taken.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the concurrent resolution just considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

BIRTH DEFECTS PREVENTION ACT  
OF 1997

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 419) to provide surveillance, research, and services aimed at prevention of birth defects, and for other purposes.